

impact of more than \$200 million annually.

I am proud to be a part of a large group of community stakeholders who are deeply invested in the successful future of the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station. Last year, Customs and Border Protection selected the base as their top choice for construction of a new border patrol station.

Mr. Speaker, I am committed to help see this proposal through, in addition to others that will ensure that the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station remains a fixture in our community for many years to come.

RELIEF FROM THE HEALTH CARE LAW

(Ms. JENKINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commend this Chamber for passing three pieces of legislation this week that will offer Americans relief from the President's health care law.

These bills, which passed with bipartisan support, reaffirm America's commitment to the ideals of religious freedom, volunteerism, and military service. Unfortunately, the President's health care law has put all three of these in jeopardy.

As written, the law would force Americans with a conscientious religious objection to buy health insurance and count volunteer firefighters, other emergency responders, Active military members, and our Nation's veterans toward the employer mandate tax thresholds.

I am a proud cosponsor of three of these bills because they all will ensure the Affordable Care Act does not discriminate against Americans on the basis of religion or sacrifice.

EXTEND LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

(Mr. CARTWRIGHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, last week, the number of those cut off from emergency unemployment insurance surpassed 2 million Americans—men and women who worked hard but lost their jobs through no fault of their own.

I represent northeastern Pennsylvania, and my district has been particularly hard hit. In Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, the unemployment rate is 7.5 percent; in the Scranton/Wilkes Barre area it is 7.7 percent.

Congress could and simply should reinstate the expired Federal program. These Americans lost their jobs due to no fault of their own. They don't deserve to lose their homes as well. I will shortly be introducing legislation to implement a 6-month moratorium on foreclosures for people who have lost their unemployment insurance but are

otherwise paid up on their mortgages due to this congressional inaction.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and to vote to extend long-term unemployment compensation.

SEPARATION OF POLITICAL POWER

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, as the House takes up the topic of executive overreach this week, we should take a minute to note that this issue is institutional, not partisan.

In a recent LA Times column, Jonathan Turley, after acknowledging that he agreed with many of the policies of the current administration, went on to say:

In our system, it is often more important how we do something than what we do. Priorities and policies and Presidents change. Democrats will rue the day of their acquiescence to this shift of power when a future President negates an environmental law, or an antidiscrimination law, or tax laws.

The separation of political power among three equal branches was designed to guard against too much power accumulating in the hands of any one person or branch. This system is one of the main reasons our government has endured for nearly a quarter of a millennium.

We should not cast it aside lightly.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MASTER SERGEANT DAVID POIRIER

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Master Sergeant David Poirier, a Rhode Islander who served in the New Hampshire National Guard.

On February 28, Master Sergeant Poirier died in a noncombat-related incident while serving in the United States Air Force in Qatar in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He was laid to rest on March 10 with military honors.

Master Sergeant Poirier was from North Smithfield, Rhode Island. After serving in the United States Air Force, he joined the Rhode Island National Guard, where he was trained as a life support journeyman. In 1995, he transferred to the New Hampshire Air National Guard and continued his service as a member of the 157th Operations Support Squadron for over 19 years.

Our Nation calls upon our brave men and women in uniform to protect our great democracy. There are no greater heroes than the men and women who answer this call and make the ultimate sacrifice to keep us safe. It is because of their service that we are able to enjoy the great freedoms, privileges, and rights we have here at home.

Master Sergeant Poirier will be remembered for his friendly personality,

warmth, and enduring selflessness, and I extend my thoughts and prayers to Master Sergeant Poirier's family—his wife, Kim, four children, and two grandchildren.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

(Mr. STEWART asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEWART. Madam Speaker, every day when I am talking to constituents, their top concern is always the economy and jobs. They are frustrated—as I am—that we have something like 3.8 million Americans who have been unemployed for more than 27 weeks now. And I am consistently asked by people: What can be done? How can we make this better?

In addition to urging the Senate to pass numerous pieces of jobs legislation that have moved through the House, the President needs to approve the Keystone XL pipeline. It has been more than 2,000 days since the pipeline application was submitted for approval, 2,000 days that the administration has delayed something like 20,000 direct jobs and 120,000 indirect jobs. It took less time to fight and win World War II. It took much less time to build the Empire State Building, and it has taken us much longer to do this than to build the first computer.

If we can win world wars and create an entire industry for computers, we can surely make a decision about the Keystone pipeline. Mr. President, do the right thing. Approve the pipeline.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, NEVADA

(Mr. HORSFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HORSFORD. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today to commemorate my home State of Nevada's upcoming birthday on March 21, which will mark 150 years since Nevada was admitted to the Union in 1864. On that historic day, President Abraham Lincoln signed legislation allowing the Nevada Territory to draft its own constitution and form a State government, making us a true "Battle Born State."

Throughout its history, Nevada has embodied the rugged and adventurous spirit of the West. People from all walks of life have journeyed to our State to seek new opportunities, eventually settling down and contributing to Nevada's rich diversity.

On March 21, Nevada will come together to celebrate our State's history and achievements, but we will also be looking toward the future. Nevada's best days are yet ahead, and I look forward to seeing what comes next.

Happy birthday, Nevada.